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## SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES.

**Organizations of Pupils in the Public Schools of Paris.**—An interesting work in connection with the public schools of Paris is being encouraged and partially supported by the municipal council of that city. It seems that there are at the present time seventy-eight organizations in different sections of the city of Paris, composed of the school children who have left the schools. The object of these associations is to keep track of the children after leaving school, to bring them together at stated intervals for social and intellectual entertainment, to assist those who may be in distress, in exceptional cases, to endeavor to find positions for those out of employment, and, in general, to bring the influence of the graduate body to bear upon the present pupils in the schools. Such organizations correspond roughly to the alumni societies of our higher schools, and constitute an interesting experiment in secondary education. Some eight or ten thousand children were within the past year more or less regular attendants at meetings of these associations, and one of the committees of the city council has recommended that 27,000 francs be appropriated in amounts ranging from 200 to 1,000 francs for the expenses of such organizations. In most cases the amount recommended for each separate association is the same as that actually voted by the municipal council for the year 1897, and the results of that expenditure are viewed in the report of the committee with great satisfaction.

**United States Industrial Commission.**—Under an act of Congress approved June 18, 1898, an Industrial Commission, to be composed of five members of the Senate, five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the presiding officer of each house respectively, and nine other persons "who shall fairly represent the different industries and employments," appointed by the President, was constituted. The names and addresses of the men organized in pursuance of this act of Congress are as follows:

Senator James H. Kyle, Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Senator Boies Penrose, Philadelphia; Senator Lee Mantle, Butte, Mont.; Senator Stephen R. Mallory, Pensacola, Fla.; Senator John W. Daniel, Lynchburg, Va.; Representative John J. Gardner, Atlantic City, N. J.; Representative William Lorimer, Chicago, Ill.; Representative L. F. Livingston, Kings, Ga.; Representative John C. Bell, Montrose, Colo.; Representative Theobold Otjen, Milwaukee, Wis.; Mr. Andrew L. Harris, Eaton, Ohio; Mr. S. N. D. North, Boston; Mr. Ellison A. Smyth, Pelzer, S. C.; Mr. John M. Farquhar, Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. Eugene D. Conger, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mr. Thomas W. Phillips,

New Castle, Pa.; Mr. Charles J. Harris, Dillsboro, N. C.; Mr. M. D. Ratchford, Massillon, Ohio; Mr. John L. Kennedy, Washington, D. C.

The officers chosen by the commission at its meeting for organization were: Chairman, James H. Kyle; first vice-chairman, Thomas W. Phillips; second vice-chairman, John J. Gardner; secretary, P. H. Donnelly, and clerk and disbursing agent, William E. Sackett. Five sub-commissions were organized: On agriculture and agricultural labor, Andrew L. Harris, chairman; on conditions of labor and capital employed in manufacturing and general business, E. A. Smyth, chairman; on conditions of labor employed in mining, John W. Daniel, chairman; on transportation, Thomas W. Phillips, chairman; on statistics, S. N. D. North, chairman.

The standing committees are: on organization, S. N. D. North, chairman; on business, Eugene D. Conger, chairman; on procedure, John J. Gardner, chairman. In the report of the committee on procedure, which was adopted by a meeting of the Industrial Commission held November 15, 1898, the following general plan for the work of the commission was outlined:

The purpose of this commission, as must be inferred from the wording of the law creating it, is to ascertain the nature of the existing legislation of the several states and of the United States bearing upon industrial conditions; the actual operation of that legislation in its relation to the workingman, to the manufacturer and business man, and to the consumer; the character and effects of similar legislation in foreign countries, and how far it is applicable or desirable in the United States, and what legislation, if any, along new lines, is practicable or desirable for the improvement of industrial conditions, with a view to determining how far it is possible to frame uniform industrial laws, the adoption of which can be recommended to congress and to the legislatures of the several states.

A similar statement will apply to the work of the commission so far as it relates to agriculture, to mining, and to transportation.

The main work of the commission may, therefore, be said to be to study and compare existing laws bearing upon industrial conditions here and elsewhere, to ascertain by competent testimony wherein they are deficient, defective, inoperative, or oppressive, and to recommend such remedial statutes as will tend not only to make the conditions of industry more uniform as between the several states, but to remove such existing sources or causes of discontent, inequality, and injustice as can be reached and regulated through legislation.

The committee believes the above statement to embody practically the whole program of procedure that it is either desirable or necessary to formulate in advance of the preparation of the syllabus of

inquiry, and until the commission is brought more closely in touch with the actual conditions which surround business and industry in the United States to-day.

Such a work is vast enough and important enough to require the best energies of all the members of this commission for the period of two years.

It is the first attempt made, under governmental authority, to ascertain these facts for the guidance of congress and state legislatures in the enactment of a constantly increasing body of industrial legislation.

In order to secure satisfactory results, the committee think it to be imperatively necessary that the work shall be confined strictly to the main purpose, viz., of ascertaining the nature and effects of existing legislation, and the nature of remedial legislation which may be necessary or desirable to equalize conditions in industry and to remove any just grounds of complaint on the part of either labor or capital or of the people at large.

To facilitate the progress of the work the division is recommended of the commission into four sub-commissions of five members each, to be severally charged with the investigation of present conditions and the formulation of remedial suggestions in the following branches of industry.

1. On agriculture and agricultural labor.
2. On the conditions of labor and capital employed in manufacturing and general business,
3. On the conditions of labor and capital employed in mining.
4. On transportation.

In addition, a fifth sub-commission is recommended, to be known as the sub-commission on statistics, in the membership of which there shall be one representative of each of the above sub-commissions, and which shall be charged with the collaboration for the use of the commission of all the statistical material now available, and of such original statistical material as may from time to time be found necessary. Upon this sub-commission will also naturally fall the supervision of the preparation and publication of results.

The committee recommends that the preparation of the detailed syllabus of inquiry, which will be necessary in each sub-commission, be referred to these sub-commissions.

It recommends that each sub-commission, after it has prepared its syllabus, report the same for the approval of the full commission, in order that there may be established a general harmony between the several inquiries, and in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of investigation; and that the syllabus of each sub-commission shall

contain full inquiries respecting the existence and effect of combinations and trusts in their particular subjects of inquiry.

The committee also suggests that there are certain subjects of inquiry which appertain equally to all the groups into which it has recommended that the commission be segregated. The subjects of immigration, of education, of combinations and trusts and of taxation at once suggest themselves as belonging in this category. It is, therefore, recommended that these subjects, one or more of them, be examined into by the full commission pending the organization of the several sub-commissions.

The ultimate results of the work of the Industrial Commission in each of the fields into which it is proposed to inquire should come for approval before the full commission before they are transmitted to congress or forwarded to the several state governments as the official conclusions reached by the commission. Such a rule is absolutely necessary to secure harmonious and consistent results.

It is therefore recommended that the reports of the several sub-commissions shall be first submitted to the full commission for approval. This recommendation is based upon a rule adopted by the British Royal Labor Commission of 1891.

Another question which has received the attention of the committee has to do with the gathering of materials and information upon which to base its findings.

An immense amount of this material is ready at their hands, in the reports of the several investigations conducted by committees of congress, the reports of the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, the bureaus of labor statistics in thirty-two states of the Union, the reports of factory inspectors in many states, the reports of the several royal commissions on labor in England, and on the continent of Europe and in Australasia, and in numerous other documents, public and private, and in the voluminous literature, economic and controversial, of the labor question,

So far as possible it is desirable to avoid any duplication of this information and material.

If the commission should undertake to cover all the ground already covered in these reports, it would find itself confronted with an interminable task, the cost of which, if undertaken as thoroughly as it has already been done, would amount to much more than \$1,000,000.

It was ascertained that the work of the Department of Labor from the date of the organization of the Bureau of Labor in January, 1885, in the preparation of its thirteenth annual report and nine official reports, not including however the cost of printing and binding reports, has amounted to about \$2,000,000, and it was therefore decided

not to attempt to duplicate this work or to carry out any part of it in greater detail along the same lines. The secretary of the Industrial Commission is expected to digest and to classify testimony offered before the commission, following the plan of the Royal British Labor Commission of 1891, and such digest will be printed as a part of the final report of the commission. It has also been decided that all hearings of the commission shall be public and that the press of the country shall be invited to publish such portions of the testimony as it may desire. The syllabi of inquiry to be adopted by the sub-commissions will be made public in the near future.

**A City Trades School in Boston.**—An interesting discussion took place recently in Boston on the question of establishing a city trades school, to be known as the Franklin Trades School. The Franklin fund of the city of Boston now amounts to nearly \$360,000, and the mayor suggested that \$200,000 be set apart for public all-the-year-round baths, and the balance for the erection of a fine municipal building upon the lot on Washington street, near the corner of Dover street, upon which the old Franklin school house now stands. The recommendation of the mayor stated that :

"Such a building should include, in my opinion, a large hall, for use as a wardroom and also for public meetings, concerts, lectures, exhibitions and entertainments ; a smaller hall for society meetings, rooms for the Grand Army posts and Naval Veterans now quartered in the building ; offices for the use of the central labor organizations, and possibly offices for some municipal departments. The hall could be used to great advantage for courses of practical lectures, for the various classes of wage-earners, and thus the mechanics and artisans whom Franklin intended to assist by the provision in his will regarding the use to be made of the fund during its period of accumulation would be benefited by this final disposition of a portion of it."

The Boston Trade School Association, however, desires to have some of this money used for the establishment of a trade school to supplement the public schools and strengthen the work of manual training. The Franklin fund trustees had already taken action favorable to such a proposition as far back as December 28, 1893. On recommendation of the mayor to rescind this vote a public hearing was granted on November 14, 1898, at which several distinct interests were represented and the discussion is valuable in that it throws light on the position of organized labor in reference to the question of trade schools. Mr. Charles W. Birtwell spoke in favor of the plan for a trade school. He claimed that the statutes of Boston gave the legal right to teach boys and girls trades, and that the trustees had no right to rescind the vote. He said : "If this money is to be drawn

back and devoted to something else, the trade school cause will be doubly betrayed. If money is needed for bath houses let the citizens interested in them stand up and ask for it from their fellow-citizens. If the G. A. R. and the labor organizations want a free rental of rooms and a forum, let them ask for it; let them not seek to convert any institution for the youth into a fund for such purposes; let them meet their issue fairly."

Colonel Henry L. Higginson spoke in favor of the trades school and in reference to the position of the trade unions said, "The trade unions can do a great deal of good, but if they undertake to say 'we will not have anybody else' their day has come." Several other speakers argued that a trades school would not be an injury to the trade unions, and the secretary of the Master Builders' Association spoke in favor of the trades school. President F. S. Pickett, however, of the Central Labor Union, stated that a number of persons representing the Central Labor Union and the Building Trades Council, of Boston, desired to be heard. Among the speakers introduced by him were the following:

George E. McNeill said there was no agreement as to what is meant by a trade school. The opposition of the unions is because they believe that a trade school does not come within the provision of the will of Benjamin Franklin, and that it is antagonistic to the best interest of organized labor, consequently against the best interest of Boston and her citizens. "What we ask," he went on to say "is the establishment of a Franklin institute that shall combine within its walls the bath, the gymnasium, the forum and the trade school in its highest and broadest sense. We want to qualify boys for citizenship. We want blacksmiths who are capable of being congressmen even if not able to be elected, and when we get the mass of the people capable of serving us in congress, then congress will be leveled upward.

"To establish the trade school, as proposed, is simply a reactionary process, an attempt to get back into the so-called good old time of master and servant. The day of small manufacturers is gone."

**Summer Outings for Children.\***—From the income of the fund left by George L. Randidge for excursions to be given by the city for the children of Boston, 13,551 children have each been given a day's outing the past summer at an average cost of fourteen cents apiece, including a steamboat trip to Long Island, a luncheon and bathing facilities. The street railway company contributed a large number of free tickets and furnished special cars to convey the children to and from the wharf. The mayor regarded the bequest of Mr. Randidge as such an interesting and significant one that he took a deep interest in demonstrating what could be accomplished in this

\* Contributed by Sylvester Baxter, Esq., Boston.

line of practical philanthropy with a comparatively small sum of money by making use of the organization and facilities of the city. He thinks it undeniable that the record could not be duplicated, or even approached, by any private charitable organization. He says: "The giving of these excursions has merely involved outside of the expenditures made from the income of the fund, the fuller use, without additional cost, of facilities, in the way of wharves, steamers, grounds, beaches, etc., which were already in the possession of the city. This record may well inculcate the lesson that a fuller utilization can be made, to the great benefit of the people, of facilities owned by the city." He regards it as a striking illustration of the large scale upon which philanthropic work of this character can be successfully carried out through municipal agency.

**The Humanity Club of St. Louis,\*** which has for its motto: "Nothing Human Is Alien to Me," has had a successful career. It was founded in 1893 by Mrs. John W. Noble, and has confined itself mainly to the improvement of existing conditions of the various municipal institutions of St. Louis. For instance, it was instrumental in having the city place women guards in charge of women confined in the jail and workhouses, which effort has resulted in a material improvement of conditions, and has made these houses of detention less of a dungeon and a means of punishment and more of a means of reform. There has also been a constant improvement in the discipline. The club was also influential in having a law passed for the building of an exercise room and a bathroom for the women in jail, and has since the enactment of the law seen that it was efficiently enforced. It also succeeded in getting the "possibly" insane transferred from the hold-over, where formerly they were detained along with drunkards and criminals, to the city hospital for observation, a reform that has restored liberty to many.

It was also instrumental in establishing a maternity ward at the woman's hospital, and from its members were chosen the first women to be appointed of the Board of Managers of the House of Refuge, where all women in the care of the city are taken; through which board many improvements have since been inaugurated.

The club has thus far worked through those in authority rather than making any attempt to replace those in authority with new men. It has been quite successful in convincing those in power that their responsibilities should be used to prevent abuses and to improve conditions.

\*Contributed by Hon. Clinton Rogers Woodruff.